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Docket No. 96-113

Approved  
09/12/96

TO: The Construction Code Commission

FROM: Irvin J. Poke, AIA, Chief, Plan Review Division

SUBJECT: Interpretation Request

Question: Is a sallyport for a county jail to be classified as a public garage for the purpose of application of the state construction code, specifically the mechanical ventilation requirements?

Answer: Yes.

Commentary: Section 407.2 of the state building code defines a private garage as:

"A garage for four or less passenger motor vehicles . . . or one commercial motor vehicle, . . ."

The BOCA National Building Code/1993 Commentary (commentary) states that this definition is to address garages for one and two family dwellings. It further states that the allowance of parking one commercial vehicle is to accommodate the individual that may drive a company owned vehicle to and from work each day.

Section 408.2 of the state building code defines a public garage as:

". . . storage or parking of more than four passenger motor vehicles . . . or more than one commercial vehicle."

The commentary recognizes garages meeting this definition as representing a higher hazard. The higher hazard of public garages is due to the broader scope of use and access. As previously stated, the

private garage is defining a residential situation with limited use and access, not allowing use and access by the public.

A vehicle sallyport for a county jail is not limited in use and access, and is for vehicles that are registered and insured as commercial vehicles. The nature of a sallyport in a jail facility is to be accessed by a broad number of employees, public, and vehicles. It also is a part of a facility regularly used by the public and therefore requires a high standard protection.